

The Next Steppe:
Sage-grouse
and
Rangeland Wildfire
in the
Great Basin

**Speaker's
Guide**





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Speaker's Guide

Thank You

For agreeing to speak, present, participate on a panel, serve as a moderator or work as a member of the Senior Policy Group or Senior Fire Operations Group.

You've been asked to participate because of your knowledge, experience and reputation. The conference's objective is to chart a clear path forward for management of sagebrush steppe in the Great Basin and lay the foundation of a comprehensive strategy that combines the best scientific knowledge and operational practices to improve and restore sagebrush ecosystems.

It's a tall order for a three-day conference. But the organizers of the conference think we have the right people in place to achieve that ambitious goal.

Conference Objectives

It's no secret that sagebrush-steppe habitat in the Great Basin is in trouble. There are a number of contributing factors but chief among them are wildfire and invasive species. Over time, we have seen a repeating cycle of fire followed by the spread of dominating and highly flammable invasive annual grass which leads to more fire, greater spread of invasives over an ever larger area, more fire and so on. The adverse effects on the vegetative landscape have been cumulative and severe.

Neither science nor operations alone can break this cycle. Rather, it will take an operational response rooted in sound science. Together, science and operations provide a foundation for and the essence of a strategy to interrupt the fire-invasives cycle and begin to restore critical sage-steppe ecosystems and habitat.

With that approach in mind, and with an urgent sense of purpose, this conference brings together leaders in both science and operations. Additionally, some of those leaders, along with management leadership, will serve on one of two groups established for the conference: a Senior Policy Group and a Senior Fire Operations Group. These groups, with your participation, are key to the outcome of this conference.

There will be two full days of information sharing and discussion all pointed to the third day. On the third day, you and all your colleagues in attendance will have the opportunity to interact with and provide input to each the Senior Policy Group and the Senior Fire Operations Group. Equipped with the knowledge, perspectives and input they've gained, those two groups will then come together and create the framework for a comprehensive strategy for moving forward in positive and measured steps to break the fire-invasives cycle and put us on a path toward improved ecosystems and habitat.

Stated simply, the objective of this conference is to identify best wildfire management practices and provide policy recommendations that will eliminate barriers and help the work of conserving sagebrush-steppe in the Great Basin to move ahead at an accelerated pace.

Quick Reference - Important Dates

A/V requests due	October 14	5 p.m. Mountain
Biographies due	October 15	5 p.m. Mountain
Presentation summaries due	October 15	5 p.m. Mountain
Electronic presentations due (no exceptions)	November 3	5 p.m. Mountain
Pre-conference orientation for all moderators	November 4	2-3 p.m. – Boise Centre
Pre-conference orientation for members of the Senior Policy and Senior Fire Operations Groups	November 4	3-4 p.m. – Boise Centre
Pre-conference orientation for all presenters and panelists (drop-in)	November 4	4-8 p.m. – Boise Centre

If You Need Assistance with Audio-Visual Needs

Conference organizers have contracted with [EnviroIssues](http://EnviroIssues.com) to provide administrative and facilitation support for the conference. We will have a computer, LCD projector, laser pointer/remote, and microphones available as standard equipment. If you have specific AV needs beyond our standard equipment, please contact Melissa Thom at mthom@enviroissues.com or by phoning her at 208-385-0128. *All AV requests must be sent to Melissa by COB Tuesday, October 14, 2014.*



Speaker's Guide

If You Have Questions about the Agenda

If you have questions about the agenda, please get in touch with Don Smurthwaite at smurthfam@westelfiber.net or by calling 208-866-6219. You may also contact Susan Hayman at EnviroIssues, shayman@enviroissues.com, or 208-385-0128.

General questions about the conference also may be directed to Kari Boyd-Peak at 208-387-5457 or kboyd@blm.gov

Biographies and Abstracts Deadline

Conference organizers request that all speakers (moderators, presenters, panelists, and members of the Senior Policy and Senior Fire Operations Groups) submit biographies. *Only presenters need to provide an abstract, though panelists may choose to do so if they are giving a formal presentation as their brief panelist remarks.*

Please send your biography of not more than 150 words and a summary of your presentation of not more than 150 words to Melissa Thom (mthom@enviroissues.com) by October 15. The biography and summary will be included online and in the conference folders.

Guidelines for Moderators, Presenters, Panelists, and Senior Policy/Operations Groups

All

- *Time is at a premium!* The agenda is packed. A shared responsibility is to keep the meeting on schedule. We recognize that all speakers on the agenda are regarded as experts in their field and could offer more data and information than the allotted times allow. *It's imperative that each speaker be concise, clear and impart key information that the audience, and specifically, members of the Senior Policy Group and Senior Fire Operations Group, need to hear.* Please stay within the specified times.
- All speakers will need to stop by the Boise Centre on Tuesday, November 4 for a brief orientation to the facilities and equipment:
 - Moderators: 2-3 p.m.
 - Senior Policy and Senior Fire Operations Groups: 3-4 p.m.
 - Presenters and Panelists: Drop-in at your convenience from 4-8 p.m.

Presenters

- **A visual timer will be used for all speakers.** Please keep within the allotted times. *The minutes you've been given represent the maximum amount of time you can take.* Anything less than that will provide an opportunity for more Q&A time for the audience.
- Please use the provided "framing questions" to help focus your remarks on the topics of greatest interest to the Conference organizers. Framing questions are included in the Speaker Process Overview, beginning on page 4.
- Your remarks will be the most beneficial if they assist the work of the Senior Policy Group and Senior Fire Operations Group.
- Presenters will be seated at the front of the room and to the side of the standing podium. Water will be provided.
- Presenters will have the option of using a standing podium microphone or lapel microphone. The moderator will use the microphone on the standing podium for introductions and Q&A.
- The session moderator will provide a brief introduction for each presenter. After each presentation, presenters will return to their seat. The moderator will guide the audience Q&A session and direct questions to individual presenters.



Panelists

- **A visual timer will be used for all speakers.** Please keep within the allotted times. *The minutes you've been given represent the maximum amount of time you can take.* Anything less than that will provide an opportunity for more Q&A time for the audience.
- Please use the provided “framing questions” to help focus your remarks on the topics of greatest interest to the Conference organizers. Framing questions are included in the Speaker Process Overview, beginning on page 4.
- Your remarks will be the most beneficial if they assist the work of the Senior Policy Group and Senior Fire Operations Group.
- Panelists will be seated at the front of the room at a common table. Name cards and water will be provided.
- Each panelist will have an on-off table microphone. The moderator will use the microphone on the standing podium.
- The moderator of the panel will provide a brief introduction for each panelist. The moderator will guide the audience Q&A session and also may ask questions of panelists.

Moderators

- Your primary responsibility is to keep the panel on time and the presentations, discussions and Q&A sessions flowing.
- You will need to briefly introduce (two or three sentences, tops) the topic of the panel and introduce each panel member. EnviroIssues will provide the background to introduce the panelists. The panelist backgrounds will be provided to you at the meeting on Tuesday, November 4, 2014.
- We want the panels to have a conversational tone to the extent possible. It's okay to ask an occasional question of a panelist or invite a brief comment from other panel members, particularly during the Q&A.
- You will moderate the Q&A session, as time permits. It is your responsibility to ensure that the Q&A ends on time.
- EnviroIssues will contact you to arrange a brief conference call between you and your panelists to develop shared expectations for the panel process.



Speaker Process Overview

The following is a process overview for each presentation and panel.

Wednesday, November 5

Presentation: Call to Order

Time: 8:00-8:05

Location: Summit Room

Speaker: Jesse Juen

Introduced by: Self-introduces

Set-up: Standing podium and microphone on stage. No Q&A.

Framing Questions: N/A

Bio: N/A

Presentation: Welcome

Time: 8:05-8:10

Location: Summit Room

Presenter: Tim Murphy

Introduced by: Jesse Juen

Bio: EnviroIssues will provide to moderator at Tuesday orientation

Set-up: Standing podium and microphone on stage. No Q&A.

Framing Questions: N/A

Presentations: Opening Remarks

Time: 8:10-8:50

Location: Summit Room

Presenters: Janice Schneider, Dan Ashe, Neil Kornze

Introduced by: Tim Murphy

Bios: EnviroIssues will provide to moderator at Tuesday orientation

Set-up: All three speakers on stage will speak individually. Standing podium and microphone on stage. No Q&A.

Framing Questions: N/A

Presentation: Keynote Address

Time: 8:50-9:15

Location: Summit Room

Presenter: Mike Connor (Invited)

Introduced by: Tim Murphy

Bio: EnviroIssues will provide to moderator at Tuesday orientation

Set-up: Speaker on stage. No Q&A.

Framing Questions: N/A



Speaker's Guide

Presentation: Conference Overview

Time: 9:15-9:30

Location: Summit Room

Speakers: Jesse Juen (conference objectives and outcomes), Susan Hayman, EnviroIssues (agenda & logistics flow)

Introduced by: Jesse will provide a brief introduction to Susan as Conference Facilitator

Bio: EnviroIssues will provide brief intro for Susan to Jesse at Tuesday orientation

Set-up: Speaker on stage. Q&A managed by Jesse and Susan

Framing Questions: N/A

Presentations: Overview of Rangeland Fire in the Great Basin Sagebrush Steppe

Time: 9:45-11:30

Location: Summit Room

Presenters: Rick Miller, Jeff Beck, Matt Germino (25 min/presenter)

Introduced by: Anne Kinsinger, Moderator (5 min)

Bios: EnviroIssues will provide to moderator at Tuesday orientation

Set-up: Three presenters and moderator on stage. Each presenter will provide individual presentations. EnviroIssues supports delivery of PPT presentations. Q&A moderated by Anne Kinsinger.

Framing Questions:

- What is the general condition and status of the Great Basin's sagebrush-steppe ecosystem?
- Where are the key challenges to maintaining the diversity and productivity of the Great Basin's sagebrush-steppe ecosystem?
- How has and will wildfire and potential climate change affect the condition of the sagebrush steppe ecosystem in the Great Basin in the next 20 years?
- What are some critical, near-term science needs to help us better understand rangeland fire in this ecosystem?

Panel: Management Moving Forward – States' Perspective on Managing Fire and Sagebrush-Steppe Challenges

Time: 12:30-1:45

Location: Summit Room

Panelists: Virgil Moore, Leo Drozdoff, Kathleen Clarke, Brett Brownscombe (15 min/panelist)

Introduced by: Will Whelan, Moderator (5 min)

Bios: EnviroIssues will provide bios to moderator at Tuesday orientation

Set-up: Four panelists and moderator on stage at common table. Panelists will each provide brief opening remarks. EnviroIssues supports delivery of any PPT slides. Q&A moderated by Will Whelan.

Framing Questions:

- What are the challenges to the state in managing fire within sagebrush steppe ecosystems, and how are these challenges being addressed in upcoming state and federal plans?
- What changes, if any, to federal policy and fire operations would reduce these challenges?
- What kinds of research, access to science, or application of existing science would reduce these challenges?
- What opportunities exist for the states and federal agencies to better leverage their combined resources?



Presentations: Priorities and Strategies for Sage-grouse Habitat

Time: 2:00-3:30

Location: Summit Room

Presenters: Amy Lueders, Jeanne Chambers, Doug Havlina (25 min/presenter)

Introduced by: Carol Schuler, Moderator (5 min)

Bios: EnviroIssues will provide to moderator at Tuesday orientation

Set-up: Three presenters and moderator on stage. Each presenter will provide individual presentations. EnviroIssues supports delivery of PPT presentations. Q&A moderated by Carol Schuler.

Framing Questions:

- How do we prioritize restoration and rehabilitation treatments within the sagebrush steppe ecosystem?
- What kinds of research, access to science, or application of existing science would help managers make decisions regarding restoration and rehabilitation treatments in sagebrush steppe ecosystems?
- What changes, if any, to federal policy and fire operations would advance restoration and rehabilitation within the sagebrush steppe?

Panel: Rangeland Fire in the Great Basin: Challenges and Needs from a Field Perspective

Time: 3:45-4:30

Location: Summit Room

Panelists: Rosie Thomas, Jose Noriega, Shannon Ludwig (10 min/panelist)

Introduced by: [TBD], Moderator; (5 min)

Bios: EnviroIssues will provide to moderator at Tuesday orientation

Set-up: Three panelists and moderator on stage at common table. Panelists will each provide opening remarks. EnviroIssues supports delivery of any PPT slides. Q&A moderated by [Moderator]

Framing Questions:

- What considerations do you face when managing for the health of sage-grouse habitat in the Great Basin?
- In what ways does current federal policy help or hinder successful management of the sagebrush steppe ecosystem/sage-grouse habitat?
- What kinds of research, access to science, or application of existing science would reduce these challenges?
- What changes, if any, to federal policy and fire management strategies would reduce these challenges?



Speaker's Guide

Presentation: Why All This Matters

Time: 4:30-5:00

Location: Summit Room

Presenter: John Freemuth (25 min)

Introduced by: Jesse Juen or Randy Eardley (2 min)

Bio: EnviroIssues will provide to moderator at Tuesday orientation

Set-up: Speaker at podium. No Q&A.

Framing Questions: N/A

Presentation: Summary of Day 1 & Announcements

Time: 5:00-5:15

Location: Summit Room

Speaker: Jesse Juen (Day 1) / Susan Hayman (announcements)

Set-up: Speaker at podium. Q&A fielded by Jesse and Susan

Thursday, November 6

Presentation: Introduction of Day 2 & Announcements

Time: 8:00-8:05

Location: Summit Room

Speaker: Jesse Juen (Day 2) / Susan Hayman (announcements)

Set-up: Speaker at podium. No Q&A.

Presentations: Status Updates from Senior Policy Group and Senior Operations Group

Time: 8:10-8:20

Location: Summit Room

Speakers: Janice Schneider and Rex McKnight

Introduced by: Jesse Juen

Bios: EnviroIssues will provide to moderator at Tuesday orientation

Set-up: Speaker at podium. No Q&A.

Talking Points: Draft provided by EnviroIssues at post-session briefing from 6-7pm Wed

Presentation: The Effects of Rangeland Fire on Sage Grouse: A Fish and Wildlife Service Perspective

Time: 8:20-8:50

Location: Summit Room

Speaker: Ted Koch (20 min)

Introduced by: [Moderator] (2 min)

Bio: EnviroIssues will provide to moderator at Tuesday orientation

Set-up: Speaker at podium. Q&A moderated by [Moderator]

Framing Questions: N/A



Presentations: Before the Fire, Rangeland Mitigation Treatments that Work

Time: 9:00-11:35 (with break)

Location: Summit Room

Presenters: Jim McIver, Lance Okeson, Bob Unnasch, Mike Fetic, Terry Messmer, Todd Black (20 min/presenter)

Introduced by: Jim Stovall, Moderator (6 min)

Bios: EnviroIssues will provide to moderator at Tuesday orientation

Set-up : Six presenters and moderator on stage. Each presenter will provide individual presentations. EnviroIssues supports delivery of PPT presentations. Q&A moderated by Jim Stovall.

Framing Questions:

- Which treatments work successfully and where within the Great Basin?
- What kinds of research, access to science, or application of existing science would advance our understanding and use of rangeland mitigation treatments?
- What changes, if any, to federal policy and fire management strategies would facilitate the application of pre-fire treatments?

Panel: Communication and Public Engagement

Time: 12:00-12:45

Location: Falcon Room

Panelists: Rocky Barker, Génie Montblanc, Lisa Eller (10 min/panelist)

Introduced by: Jeff Burwell, Natural Resources Conservation Service
State Conservationist, Moderator (5 min)

Bios: EnviroIssues will provide to moderator at Tuesday orientation

Set-up: Three panelists and moderator will be at head table. Panelists will each provide opening remarks at podium. EnviroIssues supports delivery of any PPT slides. Q&A moderated by Jeff Burwell.

Framing Questions:

- What do you believe is the level of public interest in sagebrush-steppe issues?
- Why is it important to engage the public and stakeholders in issues related to sagebrush steppe and sage-grouse conservation?
- What techniques are successful for delivering science, policy, and management information to all agencies and interested organizations and individuals?
- What are the ongoing challenges for delivering science, policy, and management information to all agencies and interested organizations and individuals? What are potential solutions to these challenges?

Panel: During the Fire--Strategy and Tactics

Time: 1:15-2:30

Location: Summit Room

Panelists: Lindsay Neiweert, Jill Lenguineche, Rich Harvey, Darcy Helmick (10 min/panelist)

Introduced by: Julia Sullens, Moderator (5 min)

Bios: EnviroIssues will provide to moderator at Tuesday orientation

Set-up: Four panelists and moderator on stage at common table. Panelists will each provide opening remarks at podium. EnviroIssues supports delivery of any PPT slides. Q&A moderated by Julia Sullens.



Framing Questions:

- How does the presence of sagebrush steppe habitat affect fire priorities?
- What pressures and challenges do you face during a wildfire that conflict with conserving sagebrush steppe habitat?
- What kinds of planning and fuel treatments are useful from a tactical viewpoint? What could be more useful/could be exploited in fire response?
- What role has cooperation with other agencies and organizations played? What has worked, what has not?
- What changes, if any, to federal policy and fire management strategies would facilitate effective fire suppression in sagebrush steppe habitat?

Presentations: After the Fire--What Works, What Needs to Change

Time: 2:45-4:00

Location: Summit Room

Presenters: David Pyke, Jeff Rose, Jay Kerby (20 min/presenter)

Introduced by: Mike Pellant, Moderator (5 min)

Bios: EnviroIssues will provide to moderator at Tuesday orientation

Set-up: Three presenters and moderator on stage. Each presenter will provide individual presentations. EnviroIssues supports delivery of PPT presentations. Q&A moderated by Mike Pellant.

Framing Questions:

- What treatments or techniques hold the most promise?
- What are the limitations of those techniques or treatments?
- What changes, if any, to federal policy and fire management strategies would facilitate the application of post-fire treatments?

Presentations: On the Horizon—Potential New Tools to Improve Rangeland Health

Time: 4:15-5:15

Location: Summit Room

Presenters: Susan Meyer, Matt Reeves, April Hulet (15 min/presenter)

Introduced by: John Cissel, Moderator (5 min)

Bios: EnviroIssues will provide to moderator at Tuesday orientation

Set-up: Three presenters and moderator on stage. Each presenter will provide individual presentations. EnviroIssues supports delivery of PPT presentations. Q&A moderated by John Cissel.

Framing Questions:

- How can this tool be used?
- What are its potential limitations?
- What is its stage of development?
- What are the policy, fire operations, and science implications from the use of this tool?



Presentation: Summary of Day 2 & Announcements

Time: 5:15-5:30

Location: Summit Room

Speaker: Jesse Juen (Day 2) / Susan Hayman (announcements)

Set-up: Speaker at podium. Q&A fielded by Jesse and Susan

[Break for casual conversation session and potential guest speaker]

Friday, November 7

Presentation: Introduction of Day 3 & Announcements

Time: 8:00-8:05

Location: Summit Room

Speaker: Jesse Juen (Day 3) / Susan Hayman (announcements)

Set-up: Speaker at podium. No Q&A.

Presentations: Status Update from Senior Policy Group and Senior Fire Operations Group

Time: 8:05-8:10

Location: Summit Room

Speakers: Janice Schneider and Rex McKnight

Introduced by: Jesse Juen

Set-up: Speaker at podium. No Q&A. Very brief session prior to breakout meetings.

Talking Points: Draft provided by EnviroIssues at post-session briefing from 7-8 p.m. Thursday

[BREAKOUT SESSIONS 8:15-10:45, including rotation and break. More details to follow.]

Location: Senior Policy Group, Peregrine Rooms

Senior Fire Operations Group, Kestrel/Merlin Room

Presentations: Senior Policy Group and Senior Fire Operations Group Summary

Time: 10:45-11:15

Location: Summit Room

Speakers: Janice Schneider and Rex McKnight will lead, although other members of the group may wish to speak. No Q&A.

Introduced by: Jesse Juen

Set-up: Speaker at the podium

Framing Questions: N/A

Presentations: Close-Out Remarks, Final Thoughts, Next Steps

Time: 11:15-Noon

Speakers: Janice Schneider, Dan Ashe, Neil Kornze

Introduced by: Jesse Juen

Set-up: All on stage, speaker at podium. No Q&A.

Framing Questions: N/A